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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor

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Patent App.

Not known (US Nat'l phase of

PCT/DE2003/003353)

Filed

Concurrently herewith

For

METHOD FOR ENCODING ITEMS OF INFORMATION AND A DEVICE AND METHOD FOR EVALUATING THE ENCOODED

INFORMATION

Art Unit

Not known

Hon. Commissioner of Patents

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend as follows:

In the translation serving as Specification:

Page 1, before Paragraph 1 insert

This application is the US national phase of PCT application PCT/DE2003/003353 filed 9 October 2003 with a claim to the priority of

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

German patent application 10252628.1 itself

filed 11 November 2002.